

2

National Detector
Dog Manual

Procedures

Retiring Detector Dogs

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Introduction

The RCPC and the RPM, as representatives of the regional director, are responsible for retiring detector dogs. The RPM must do the following when retiring a detector dog:

- ◆ Advise and/or consult with the NDDPM
- ◆ Once the decision is made, E-mail the decision to the NDDPM, the NDDTC, and the Port Director

Criteria for Retiring a Detector Dog

The following criteria determine whether a detector dog will continue to work or will retire.

Ability of a Detector Dog to Work

Anyone involved in the management of the canine team may refer questions about the dog's ability to work to the RCPC. The Canine Officer should provide the RCPC with a history of training or work-related problems and measures that have been taken to correct these problems. The NDDTC may be consulted in the assessment of the dog's ability and provided the option of recommending remedial training or alternative duties. Typically, the NDDTC requires training documentation, medical records, and a video tape of the dog working in its port environment for an initial assessment.

Some patterns of ineffectiveness may include the following:

- ◆ Consistently low statistics
- ◆ Inability to detect certain odors
- ◆ Incompatibility of the team
- ◆ Inability to work effectively

Health Status and History

The dog's health must be evaluated by its practicing veterinarian with input from the Canine Officer. If the veterinarian recommends retirement, the recommendation must be in writing before retiring the dog.


A detector dog may be retired because of injury, disease, or age. The following list of examples may be causes for retirement; it is not inclusive.

- ◆ Dog reaches nine years of age (Canine Officer will go on the replacement list when the dog reaches 8.5 years of age)
- ◆ Hip problems
- ◆ Back and neck problems
- ◆ Epilepsy
- ◆ Arthritis
- ◆ Psychological abnormalities
- ◆ Mental health problems
- ◆ Seizures (zero tolerance)
- ◆ Injury
- ◆ Skin conditions

When a Canine Officer Leaves the Position

Use **Table 2-6-1** to determine whether a detector dog should be retired when a Canine Officer leaves the position.

Table 2-6-1: Determine Whether to Retire a Detector Dog When a Canine Officer Leaves the Position

If the dog's age is:	And NDDTC:	Then:
1-8 years	Requests the dog	Transfer the dog to NDDTC for reassignment. ¹
	Declines the dog	The RCPC may retire the dog. Go to the options for placing retired dogs beginning on page 2-6-3 .
9 years		Retirement is mandatory.

1 NDDTC is responsible for assessing and maintaining all unassigned detector dogs.

Aggression

The dog must be retired if there is one unprovoked, aggressive incident or bite. Do not retire the detector dog until the biting incident has been investigated thoroughly by the RCPC. Investigate all precursory events because when a dog bites someone there was most likely a related event that preceded the bite. Include a medical evaluation in the investigation.

The RCPC will inform the RPM and the NDDPM of the aggressive incident or bite. If needed, the NDDPM, in conjunction with the region, is responsible for notifying LPA and PPQ's Deputy Administrator.

Refer to the standard operating procedures for [Dog Aggression](#) under the [Incidents](#) section (red tab).

Placing Retired Dogs

Place a detector dog by using the options listed under [Ranked Options for Placement](#). NDDTC may help locate a home for a retiring detector dog.

Ranked Options for Placement

The following options for placement are in order of priority:

1. Canine Officer with most time spent with retiring dog
2. Canine Officer with second most time spent with retiring dog
3. Home placement, such as coworker, friend, or relative
4. Other PPQ personnel in the following order: in the work location, in the area, in the region, and then nationwide. Consult the present Canine Officer in the placement of the dog.
5. If you cannot find a home, refer to the national adoption list. NDDTC may help find a home for a retired dog.

Receipt, Agreement and Waiver of Liability for a Retired Dog

Once a detector dog is placed, then a receipt agreement must be completed. See [Figure 2-6-1 on page-2-6-4](#) for a sample of an Acknowledgment of Receipt, Agreement and Waiver of Liability. Since 2002, new dogs are identified with USDA microchips by the NDDTC. Send a copy of the surplus dog document to the NDDTC, who will communicate in writing to AKC the transfer to the adopter.

Refer to [Figure 2-6-1](#) for a sample of an Acknowledgment of Receipt, Agreement and Waiver of Liability.

When shipping the retired dog, FedEx original copies of its health records to the NDDTC. If the dog is retired within the region, the region will maintain the records.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT, AGREEMENT AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY
(SURPLUS APHIS DOG)**

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has in its possession a surplus dog named _____. Ownership of this dog is hereby transferred to _____, who hereby agrees to the following:

1. I acknowledge receipt of the dog named herein and acknowledge that the United States of America, acting through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, relinquishes all rights, title, and interest in the dog and all responsibility for its condition and actions. I accept and assume full ownership of said dog.
2. In accepting full ownership of said dog, I assume complete responsibility for its condition and actions. I agree that the United States of America, U.S. Department of Agriculture, has no liability for damages to any property or any personal injury, including death, to any person arising from or incident to the donation of the dog or its subsequent use or disposition.
3. I state that I have not exchanged money or anything of value except this agreement and waiver of liability for said dog.
4. I agree not to sell said dog and agree not to place the dog in trade or commerce, in any manner, at any time.
5. Further, accept this dog fully aware that the United States of America, U.S. Department of Agriculture, makes no warranty or guarantee of its physical condition, temperament or future behavior.
6. I agree to purchase or otherwise acquire in my name any and all required licenses within 72 hours of receiving the dog.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 19____.

Signature of Donee

Printed Name of Donee

Address of Donee

FIGURE 2-6-1: Sample of Acknowledgment of Receipt, Agreement and Waiver of Liability

Replacing a Detector Dog

The priority for assigning replacement dogs will be as follows:

1. New handlers within 6 months of graduating from BCOT or replacement training
2. Needs of the port (Does the port already have a dog team?)
3. Degree of pest risk at the port
4. Compatibility of the available dog to the handler
5. Compatibility of the dog to the port in question (Will the dog work better at a slow or fast paced port? What is the type of work to be done at the port?)



All Canine Officers will return to NDDTC for replacement training. The length of training will be determined by the NDDTC and the RCPC.

